(i) Making Qualitative Requirements more broad based so as to avoid single vendor situations.

(ii) Direct offsets and Integrity Pact as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for purchases over Rs. 300 crore.

(iii) Standard contract terms upfront as part of the RFP. This includes provision regarding penalty for use of undue influence by the seller and prohibit engagement of any agent or payment of agency commissions by the seller.

(iv) Broad timeframe for completion of different procurement activities.

Recruitment at Officer Level

† 2316. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that problem is being faced with respect to new recruitment at officer level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to formulate a new scheme to attract competent youths into army?

THE MINITSER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (c) There has been no problem in filling up the required vacancies for new induction at the officers' level However, in view of the increasing competition from the corporate world, steps like Image Projection Campaign, enhanced interaction with the youth which Government wishes to attract to the Armed Forces, implementation of the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee recommendations and raising of additional Service Selection Boards, have been initiated.

Expiry of lease of Annadel ground, Shimla

† 2317. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annadel ground in Shimla was leased out to army for a period of 99 years and the period of this lease has expired;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has taken a decision to return the ground to the Government of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, by when this work would be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The land has been with the Army on hire/lease, the period of which has expired. The matter was taken up with the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, since the land is required for the use of Army. No final decision in this regard has been taken.

Fake encounter in Jammu and Kashmir

2318. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has named 14 persons including army officers as responsible for the fake encounter in Pathribal, Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether DNA samples were deliberately fudged to help the persons responsible for the encounter; and

(c) if so, the details of the investigation and action taken against those who messed with the DNA test?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation regarding the incident of alleged killing of 5 civilians at Pathribal, Panchalthan, Jammu and Kashmir, on 25.3.2000 and for fixing responsibility into the incident of fudging of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) samples is still underway.

Stress and depression among Soldiers

2319. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a report of military authorities, our soldiers engaged in low-intensity conflict areas feel very much stressed/ depressed as a result of fatigue, which has been resulting in devastating impact on our army personnel; and